



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

**JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL
IOWA TASK FORCE FOR YOUNG WOMEN**

Mission: Promoting innovative female responsive techniques through education and advocacy

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Urbandale Public Library, Room A
3520 86th St, Urbandale, IA

November 1, 2019

- Present:** Jennifer Tibbetts, Chair; Lori Rinehart; Ashley Artzer; Andrea Dencklau; Andrea Dickerson; Bethany Kohoutek; Julie Martin; Marissa Schuster
- Staff:** Steve Michael; Kathy Nesteby; Julie Rinker; Reeva Neighbors, SIYAC
- Others:** Sierra Stalions; Elizabeth Finerty; Sheri Flack

Introductions/Announcements

- Consensus model information

Lori Rinehart called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. A quorum was not present until later in the meeting. Introductions were made.

Jennifer Tibbetts explained that the Task Force follows a consensus model with regard to taking action on items, rather than following Roberts Rule of Order.

Approval of Minutes

- Aug 2, 2019

The minutes were accepted as presented.

JJAC/CJJP Update

- Public comment to DHS re: JJDP Act, including shackling
- Transfer of Juvenile Service Fund workgroup

Steve Michael reported the following:

- Staff Changes—Michael reported that several individuals were recently hired: Meg Berta, Justice System Analyst; Mindi TenNapel, Research Coordinator; Reeva Neighbors, Coordinator, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council; and Lacey Baggs, a Fellow with Future Leaders in Action.

Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

- Baggs is continuing the work of creating a Service Inventory for the juvenile justice system. This inventory identifies which services intentionally target girls, among other things. Future work will identify if the services are female responsive.
- CJJP was awarded a new reentry grant. The grant funds will expand reentry efforts statewide and provide focus on family engagement, YTDM/FTDMs, and transition planning for youth leaving group foster care settings.
- CJJP has pre-filed legislation to align Iowa Code §232.22 with the new Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA) provisions that prohibit youth waived to adult court to be housed in adult jails unless the court determines it is in the best interests of the juvenile and the community. These new rules go into effect in 2021. CJJP provided data regarding the number of waived youth by gender and race that the ITFYW may find helpful. Pre-file bills from the Executive Branch must be approved by the Governor before submission to the Legislature.
- CJJP also pre-filed legislation to transfer administration and oversight of Detention Home funds from DHS to CJJP. This transfer was recommended by a work group seated to develop an action plan and recommendations per HF766.

HF766 required the work group to develop an action plan to transfer administration and oversight of specific delinquency-related funding from DHS to State Court Administration (SCA) or another entity—Detention Home Funds, Graduated Sanctions and Court-Ordered Services (community-based services), Group Care.

Michael reported that, based on recent work group discussions, other recommendations will include the transfer of administration and oversight of graduated sanctions and court-ordered services funding to SCA. However, the transfer of group care funding requires additional time. A proposed MOU between DHS and SCA would require the two agencies to provide joint oversight until July 2021. During that time, the two agencies would assess whether a full transfer of oversight to SCA is necessary. If that is the case, the transfer would occur by July, 2023, to align with current group care provider contracts.

The Transfer of Juvenile Funding and Services work group has been meeting monthly and will submit all recommendations to the governor and general assembly by December 15.

Nestebly added that the Legislature could choose to do nothing or take all or part of the recommendations. In terms of the impact on girls, if group care oversight is transferred to SCA, it would potentially allow for specialization with some populations, including girls.

Tibbetts asked what the Task Force could do. Nestebly responded that a final draft of the report will be shared and that the Task Force and/or individual members could determine if they want to support the recommendations. Michael noted that the report will include data related to the needs of delinquent girls.

- Michael also reported that CJJP has submitted a request to DHS to change Administrative Rules to align with new JJRA provisions related to restraints used on pregnant girls. Nesteby noted this action will be included in CJJP's reporting to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) as this is also a requirement of the new JJRA.

Nesteby also noted that although changes to the Iowa Code failed regarding the use of restraints on pregnant adult women, the Department of Corrections has made changes to its policy and practices. Nesteby noted that the former administrator of the Office on the Status of Women, Rachel Scott, had worked on the Code changes in the past. Nesteby added that although the official comment was made to DHS regarding the shackling of pregnant delinquent girls, there was no information at this time regarding the outcome of the DHS Administrative Rule change.

Tibbetts asked if Scott would be willing to participate in a future meeting. Nesteby knew that Kristen Corey, Status of Women, has put together some information on this topic as well. There was consensus to gain more information on this topic.

Partnering with DMC subcommittee for an event

Tibbetts reported that the JJAC has approved some funding for the Task Force to develop an educational event in cooperation with the DMC Subcommittee. Although nothing has been finalized, the event could focus on race and gender issues of girls in the juvenile justice system, the female-responsive protocol update (Healing Justice), and data to raise awareness with providers and other juvenile justice stakeholders. To begin the conversation, a phone call was held with CJJP staff and DMC co-chairs. The event would be held prior to September 30, 2020, when the funds expire.

Nesteby asked members to consider target audiences, speakers and objectives. There was consensus to discuss the publication prior to providing recommendations.

“Healing Justice” publication progress

Nesteby reported that the work group has met regularly and assigned sections to work group members. Once completed, subject matter experts will be asked to review the publication.

The following highlights discussion/suggestions:

- Audiences—JCO conference, legislators, media, legislative champions
- August is the anniversary month of the Voting Rights Amendment
- Subject matter experts—representatives from communities already interested in justice and with knowledge of populations often marginalized in juvenile justice (e.g. disabled, immigrant, refugee, SOGIE and girls of color). They will be asked to review and edit in order to validate the information. The ITFYW may also ask for their assistance in presenting the information.
- Speakers—Professor Ginwright, University of California at Berkeley; Monique Morris, author and co-founder of the National Black Women's Justice Institute

- Other ideas—Hosting a Girls' Circle event. It was noted there are a number of young juvenile court staff who are unfamiliar with Girls' Circle and turnover is high among those who have been trained as service providers
- Costs—location and speaker
- Data—numbers related to girls in detention and length of stays, adult waivers, out-of-state placements, number of deep-end girls

Michael asked members what changes they would expect after the event. Nesteby responded that the publication would be used by practitioners to further the female-responsive approach and that the ITFYW may also then take requests for training.

Michael reminded members that the publication and event would need to be reviewed and approved by the JJAC. He noted the importance of that timeline and suggested tying it to the changes in graduated sanctions and group care—it is an opportunity to provide ideas on services needed and tailoring policy, practices, and services needed for that population of offenders.

Tibbetts noted the budget would be between \$4,000 to 4,500 and should also be tied to the Task Force's goals.

Goals and Objectives

Nesteby reported that the JJAC will hold its Retreat in September, 2020. At that time, the goals and objectives will be reviewed. Tibbetts asked members to review the goals and consider revisions/additions.

It was recommended that the following be considered: the recommendations from the Iowa Girls Justice Initiative (IGJI) report, the new Healing Justice publication, updated data, group care, and funding priorities.

Discussion then centered on the upcoming DHR Day to be held February 27 at the Iowa State Capitol. Tibbetts reported that the day provides an opportunity to share information with legislators. She would like to have the February 7th Task Force meeting focus on planning for that day. She asked Michael if the Task Force could have a speaker for that day. Michael suggested someone who has been through the juvenile justice system. He encouraged the group to propose a speaker and will inform the DHR director of the group's intentions.

Tibbetts asked members to consider speakers, plans for that day--attendance, meeting with legislators, and display items. Nesteby suggested developing talking points and instructions for meeting with legislators would potentially improve success.

Lori Rinehart suggested meeting prior to the February meeting. Kohoutek agreed and suggested 'mini-advocacy training' at the February meeting.

After a brief discussion, there was consensus to meet via conference call on January 17 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will encompass a review of talking points and the report/recommendations from the Transfer of Juvenile Services and Funding work group.

Find Our Sisters

- Guest –
- Volunteer for next meeting

Sheri Flack and Elizabeth Finerty provided information on a program for moderate-high risk girls in Davenport. The program meets at the Scott County Detention Center and is run by the county to provide juvenile court diversion services. Some funding for the program is provided through fundraising activities.

Girls are referred to the program by juvenile court school liaisons or JCS intake staff. The program began approximately four years ago and is normally comprised of about eight girls who meet over an 8-10 week period.

The girls recommend topics, activities, and develop the rules. Some activities have been field trips, carving pumpkins, visiting a nursing home, playing bingo, and information on career opportunities, domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual health. As the community has become more aware of the program, many have volunteered to participate in the program.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Membership

There were no new member suggestions.

Ashley Artzer asked for information on a Boys Town project in Polk County. Nesteby and Michael reported the project will focus on diversion and provided some information. The funding goes through June 30. They suggested Artzer contact Patrick Garcia with Boys Town for further details.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning
Iowa Department of Human Rights

Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning